CLAIMS

1-22 (cancelled)

23) (new) A method of compactly representing and exactly matching an existing sequence of references to desired information available on a communications network, said sequence of references changing in a predictable pattern, said method comprising the steps of:

    a) locating examples of said sequence of references, where each reference consists of;

- a non-changing part, which is at least some of the characters of said reference which are the same for all references in said sequence of references, and
- a changing part, which is the remaining characters of said reference, said changing part exactly matching those characters that change in said sequence of references,

    b) examining said changing part to determine said predictable pattern,

    c) creating a customized template, said template comprising at least;

- said non-changing part, and
- one or more replacement indicators selected to both indicate said predictable pattern, as well as the position in said reference where said predictable pattern occurs,

    d) storing said customized template in a database, and

    e) later applying an index value to said customized template to construct any specific reference,

whereby rather than needing to store, and add to when necessary, the entire sequence of references to said desired information, any specific reference can be constructed by applying said index value to said customized template, and

whereby a user can unilaterally construct a reference to periodically-updated desired information which is available elsewhere on a network.

24) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said desired information is stored at one of many content providers, and a plurality of said customized templates are stored in said database,

whereby a user can retrieve a customized template to locally apply an index value to unilaterally construct any specific reference to periodically-updated desired information which the user can then directly retrieve from a content provider.

25) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said replacement indicators produce output selected from the group consisting of the:

    a) date, with or without a leading zero for single-digit dates, as specified when selected

    b) month number, with or without a leading zero for single-digit months, as specified when selected

    c) three-letter abbreviation for the month, with capitalization specified when selected

    d) full month name, with capitalization specified when selected

    e) week number, with or without a leading zero for single-digit weeks, as specified when selected

    f) year, as four digits or just the least significant two digits, as specified when selected

g)　count value, relative to a specified starting number, and with or without a leading zero, both as specified when selected

where the above date-related values are relative to either a specified fixed date or to the date when said created customized template is used to construct a specific reference, as specified when said customized template is created, and

whereby customized templates can be created which include any combination of date and count components.

26) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said index value is a numerical offset relative to the current date,

whereby each sequential index value applied to said customized template generates a reference which exactly matches the next in said existing sequence of references.

27) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said index value is a numerical offset relative to a specified absolute date,

whereby each sequential index value applied to said customized template generates a reference which exactly matches the next in said existing sequence of references.

28) (new) The method of claims 26 or 27 wherein an increment value is specified to indicate the interval between each of said existing sequence of references,

whereby references can be constructed from said customized template by multiplying an offset value by said increment value to generate the required index value.

29) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein a record is maintained of the references corresponding to information which has been completely received at an earlier time,

whereby users can utilize said record to distinguish between information which has and has not been previously received,

whereby users can choose to only receive information which they have not received before.

30) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said desired information is received in its entirety and stored locally by users before being utilized,

whereby said desired information can utilized at a later time.

31) (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said information is streaming media which is played substantially as it is received.

whereby said streaming media can be utilized sooner, while it is still being received.

32) (new) The method of claim 31 wherein a record is maintained of the reference corresponding to streaming media which has not been received completely because the reception of said streaming media was stopped, said record indicating the number of seconds of streaming media which was received and played before playback was stopped,

whereby, based on the content of said record, a user can construct a reference which specifies that said streaming media is to be played beginning said number of seconds from its beginning,

whereby said user can resume receiving said streaming media starting at the point at which playback was stopped.

33) (new) The method of claim 32 wherein said record is stored at said database and can be retrieved from anywhere on said communications network,

whereby a user at a first location on said communications network can begin receiving streaming media and later stop receiving said streaming media and still later, from a second location elsewhere on said communications network and based on the content of said retrieved record, said user can resume receiving said partially-received streaming media starting at the point at which playback was stopped.

34) (new) The method of claims 32 or 33 wherein a user can resume receiving said partially-received streaming media a predetermined number of seconds prior to the point at which playback was stopped,

whereby an interrupted word or sentence can be replayed in its entirety, followed by the remainder of said partially-received streaming media.

——————————— End of Claims ———————————